

PRESS RELEASE

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The ~~Deputy~~ Under Secretary of State today handed to the Soviet Ambassador a note, the text of which is set forth below, concerning the case of Yuri A. Rastvorov, former official of the Soviet Mission in Japan:

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and, with reference to the Embassy's inquiries regarding the whereabouts of Y. A. Rastvorov, has the honor to advise the Embassy that Mr. Rastvorov has requested the appropriate American authorities that he be granted political asylum.

Mr. Rastvorov's request has been granted and he is now residing in the United States. If the Ambassador wishes to talk with Mr. Rastvorov, he is available for an interview immediately.

The Department of Justice has issued the following statement with regard to the authorization granted to Mr. Rastvorov in connection with his entry into the United States:

Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., announced today that Yuri A. Rastvorov, the Soviet official who sought the protection and assistance of American authorities

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authorities, has been granted temporary entry into the United States under the auspices of the Department of State, and is now in this country. The Japanese Government has been kept appropriately advised.

His entry was authorized under the discretionary powers vested in the Attorney General by the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Yuri A. Rastvorov has been in consultation with American officials since his arrival in the United States. He has also been interviewed in the United States by Japanese officials.

It is contemplated that Mr. Rastvorov will appear at a press conference which will be arranged in Washington.

Attached hereto are copies of the following pertinent documents concerning this matter:

1. Mr. Rastvorov's request for asylum;
2. Biographic information concerning Mr. Rastvorov.

Attachments:

As stated.

**Request for Asylum:**

I, Yuri Alexandrovich Rastvorov, motivated solely by my own wishes, and for political reasons, hereby request the United States Government for political asylum.

(signed) Yuri A. Rastvorov

January 24, 1984